(b) and (c) The provincialisation of schools and teachers in Assam is in the realm of the Government of Assam and not the Union Government.

Reservation for disabled persons in private sector

†*199. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has failed in providing concessions and encouragement to the disabled persons in the country;

(b) whether Government proposes to make a legislation whereby the disabled persons could get reservation in private companies and could contribute in nation's development; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No Sir. A number of measures by way of concessions, facilities and encouragement are being implemented for persons with disabilities. Some of the important ones are:-

- 3% reservation in employment in the establishment of Governments, Public Sector Undertakings etc.
- 3% reservation in admission to Govt. and Govt.-aided educational institutions.
- Concession in income tax liability.
- Custom Duty and Excise Duty exemption on aids and appliances meant for persons with disabilities.
- Concessional fares in transport services provided by Government and public undertaking.
- National awards are given every year under various categories to high achievers from among persons with disabilities.
- Assistive devices are being provided free of cost or at concessional rate to needy disabled persons.
- Scholarships are being provided to students with disabilities to pursue higher education.

(b) Article 16 of the Constitution of India enables the State to provide for reservation in favour of under-represented classes only in matters of public employment.

(c) Section 41 of The Persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 envisages *inter alia* that the appropriate Govt. will provide incentives to employers in the private sector to employ persons with disabilities. Para 28(ii) of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006 also provides for incentives, awards etc. to encourage the employment of persons with disabilities in private sector. In pursuance of these provisions, national awards are being given every year to best employers and placement officers/agencies for providing employment to persons with disability. In addition, a scheme of Incentives to Employers in the Private Sector for giving Employment to Persons with Disabilities has also been introduced from 1.4.2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.